

REMARKS

The brief telephone interview with Examiner Reyes on February 18, 2004 is acknowledged. The Section 112 objections and the comparative examples were discussed, and the Examiner requested copies of the references cited in the International Examination report.

The copies of the cited references and an Information Disclosure Statement were filed with the original application on April 26, 2000. For convenience, a copy of these papers are attached to this Amendment with a photocopy of the transmittal letter.

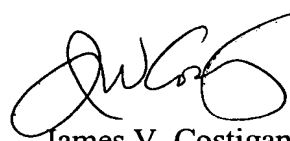
In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 2, 6, 11, 12, 17, 19, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, applicant has canceled Claims 2 and 17, amended Claims 6, 11, 12, 19, and 22, and added new Claims 24-26. The support for the amendment to Claim 11 can be found at page 4, lines 15-20. The support for the amendment to Claim 12 can be found at page 5, lines 4-10. The support for Claim 24 can be found at page 5, lines 10-12. The support for Claim 25 is found in the old text of Claim 19. The support for Claim 26 is found in the old text of Claim 22. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that this ground of rejection be removed.

The Examiner then noted that no prior art discloses a process for the extraction and concentration of tannin comprising concentration of the percolated solution containing tannin by nanofiltration with spiral wound membranes selected from polyethersulfonic or polyamidic membranes. Applicant thanks the Examiner for so noting.

In light of the foregoing applicant respectfully submits that that the claims of the present application are in proper form for allowance. Favorable consideration and

early allowance are therefore respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Costigan', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

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